

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00

/036 W

-----041726Z 024378 /47

O 041552Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4798

TED FLESHER PROJECT AIDJEX

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA GEOPHYSICAL INSTITUTE

FAIRBANKS ALASKA

TELEX 090 35414 IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MOSCOW 2984

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PBOR, TPHY, OCLR, UR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PROJECT AIDJEX FLIGHTS

REFS: (A) STATE 024996, (B) STATE 049131, (C) STATE 047693,

(D) MOSCOW 1981

SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED, BUT SHORTNESS OF NOTICE CREATES COMPLICATIONS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FLIGHTS NOT BEGIN BEFORE MARCH 9. REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH MFA'S USA DEPARTMENT (CHETVERIKOV) AND LEFT "NON-PAPER" CONTAINING DATA FROM PARAS 1-3 REF A, PARAS 1 AND 2 REF B AND PARA 1 REF C. DURING THE DISCUSSION EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT THE FLIGHTS WOULD BE IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTIFICATION WAS TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE APPEARANCE OF THESE US AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA WEST OF 169 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE.

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2. CHETVERIKOV ACCEPTED THE "NON-PAPER" "INFORMALLY" SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT A NOTE AND NOT A FORMAL COMMUNICATION. EMBOFF CONFIRMED THAT WE WERE COMMUNICATING INFORMALLY, REITERATED THAT THE FLIGHTS WERE IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE, AND SAID THAT THIS NOTIFICATION WAS MADE IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING.

3. CHETVERIKOV DISPLAYED A BIT OF SENSITIVITY ABOUT FLIGHTS IN THE AREA AND MENTIONED THE "NON-FREE-FLYING ZONE," A TERM WHICH WE HAD USED IN A BRIEF, EARLIER MENTION (REF D) OF THIS PROJECT ON THE BASIS OF REF A. CHETVERIKOV ACCEPTED EMBOFF'S EXPLANATION THAT THE ZONE WAS USG-CREATED AND NOT AN INTERNATIONAL ONE, BUT HE ASSERTED THAT ITS EXISTENCE TESTIFIED TO THE SENSITIVITY OF FLIGHTS IN THE AREA.

4. FINALLY, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE AMOUNT OF NOTICE GIVEN WAS VERY SHORT AS FLIGHTS COULD START AS EARLY AS TOMORROW (MARCH 5). HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE VERY SHORT NOTICE HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR US. (IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MARCH 5 IS NOW A SOVIET WORK-DAY BOTH MARCH 7 AND 8 ARE SOVIET HOLIDAYS, AND THAT MAY WELL COMPLICATE HIS TASK.) EMBOFF ASKED CHETVERIKOV TO LET THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES KNOW ABOUT THE FLIGHTS SO AS TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS, AND ALTHOUGH CHETVERIKOV WOULD NOT GUARANTEE ANYTHING, WE THINK HE WILL TRY TO DO SO.

5. COMMENT: MFA HAS BEEN INFORMED, AND THEY WILL SURELY ATTEMPT TO INFORM THE APPROPRIATE AIR AUTHORITIES ABOUT THE FLIGHTS. HOWEVER, THE SHORT NOTICE PROVIDED BY REFS B AND C, COUPLED WITH FACT OF SOVIET HOLIDAYS ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY IS A COMPLICATION IF WE REALLY WANT THOSE AUTHORITIES TO BE INFORMED BEFORE THE FLIGHTS TAKE PLACE. IN OUR VIEW, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY PREFERABLE THAT THIS OCCUR. THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT, UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT NOW AWARE, THE FLIGHTS NOT BEGIN BEFORE MARCH 9.

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REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY STATING WHETHER THIS DELAY IS ACCEPTABLE. IF IT IS WE WILL INFORM MFA-PREFERABLY DURING MARCH 5 WORKING DAY MOSCOW TIME - OF THIS ACCOMMODATION, IN ANY CASE, REQUEST EMBASSY BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF COMMENCEMENT OF ANY FLIGHT TO ANY OF THE FIRST THREE LOCATIONS LISTED IN PARA 3 OF REF A.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0590
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